

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR :  
ADMISSION TO PRACTICE IN THIS COURT :

**PETITION**

I, Joel E. Benecke, hereby petition the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania to admit me to practice before that Court. In support of my petition, I state as follows:

Office address: 535 N Church St.  
Suite 317  
West Chester, PA 19380  
Office Telephone: 610-620-3996

I was admitted to practice before the Courts listed below on the date shown after the name of each Court, and I am currently a member in good standing of all those Courts.

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania - May 22, 2009

Eastern District of Pennsylvania - August 6, 2013

My attorney Identification number is: PA - 210099

**FOR COURT USE ONLY**

       GENERAL ADMISSION:

GRANTED BY THE COURT: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

       SPECIAL ADMISSION:

GRANTED BY THE COURT \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Answer the Following Questions:

All occasions, if any, on which I have been convicted of a crime (subsequent to my becoming an attorney), censured, suspended, disciplined or disbarred by any court are set forth as follows: (State the facts and circumstances connected with each; if none, state "none".)

None

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All occasions, if any, on which I have been held in contempt of court are set forth as follows: (State the nature and final disposition of contempt; if none, state "none".)

None

I do ☐, do not ☒, have any disciplinary action, contempt or other proceedings involving me **pending** before any court. (Check the appropriate space.) If there are pending proceedings, please explain:

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I am seeking:

☐ General Admission under Local Rule LR 83.8.1

☒ Special Admission (specify by placing a checkmark in the appropriate rule below)

LR 83.8.2.1 ☒, LR 83.8.2.2 ☐, LR 83.8.2.3 ☐, or LR 83.8.2.4 ☐

If seeking special admission under Local Rules LR 83.8.2.1, LR 83.8.2.2, LR 83.8.2.3, or LR 83.8.2.4, the basis for my admission under the designated rule is as follows:

I am seeking admission for the purpose of representing a criminal defendant in their  
specific case.

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NAME THE PARTY YOU REPRESENT:

Ester Mbaya

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If special admission is requested for a particular case, please list case number and caption:

Case # 1:24-cr-00261-JKM

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Caption # 1:24CR261

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I understand that:

- 1) If seeking admission under Section LR 83.8.2.2, LR 83.8.2.3, or 83.8.2.4, I must submit a letter from a superior stating the agency with which I am employed and the duties performed which qualify me for admission under those sections.
- 2) If petitioning for admission only in a particular case, under Rule LR 83.8.2.1, I need no sponsor's certificate. Any attorney specially admitted under LR 83.8.2.1 shall, in each proceeding in which he or she appears, have associate counsel who is generally admitted under Local Rule 83.8.1 to practice in this court, whose appearance shall also be entered of record and upon whom all pleadings, motions, notices, and other papers may be served in accordance with any statute or applicable rule. The attendance of any such associate counsel upon the hearing of any motion or the taking of any testimony shall be sufficient appearance for the party or parties represented by such associate counsel. Either the specially admitted attorney or associate counsel must be fully prepared to participate in any hearings, arguments, conferences, and trials. (See LR 83.9)  
If special admission is requested for a particular case, please list the name, address, telephone number and bar identification number of associate counsel to be entered of record in the case:  
Julie D. Lathia PA Supreme Court I.D. - 208407  
535 N Church St., Suite 317, West Chester, PA 19380  
717-940-4881
- 3) If seeking general admission under Rule LR 83.8.1, I must be a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and have a sponsor who is a member in good standing of the Bar of this Court present to move for my admission and I must submit the sponsor's certificate with my petition.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER

210099 - Pennsylvania

(Bar Identification Number and State where admitted)

10/03/2024

(Date)

By signing this petition for admission, I acknowledge that I have read the attached Middle District of Pennsylvania Code of Professional Conduct and agree to subscribe to the standards set forth in the Code.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

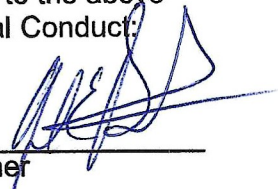
**As a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, I will strive for the following professional ideal:**

1. The rule of law will govern my entire conduct. I will not violate the law or place myself above the law.
2. I will treat with civility and respect the lawyers, clients, opposing parties, the court and all the officials with whom I work. Professional courtesy is compatible with vigorous advocacy and zealous representation. Even though antagonism may be expected by my client, it is not part of my duty to my client.
3. I will respect other lawyers' schedules as my own, and will seek agreement on meetings, depositions, hearings, and trial dates. A reasonable request for a scheduling accommodation should never be unreasonably refused.
4. Communications are lifelines. I will keep the lines open. Telephone calls and correspondence are a two-way channel; I will respond to them promptly.
5. I will be punctual in appointments, communications and in honoring scheduled appearances. Neglect and tardiness are demeaning to others and to the judicial system.
6. I will earnestly attempt to resolve differences through negotiation, expeditiously and without needless expense.
7. Procedural rules are necessary to judicial order and decorum. I will be mindful that pleadings, discovery processes and motions cost time and money. I will not use them heedlessly. If an adversary is entitled to something, I will provide it without unnecessary formalities.
8. I will not engage in conduct that brings disorder or disruption to the courtroom. I will advise my client and witnesses appearing in court of the proper conduct expected and required there and, to the best of my ability, prevent my client and witnesses from creating disorder or disruption.
9. Before dates for hearings or trials are set, or if that is not feasible immediately after such date has been set, I will attempt to verify the availability of necessary participants and witnesses so I can promptly notify the court of any likely problems.

I agree to subscribe to the above  
Code of Professional Conduct:

Joel E. Benecke

Signature of Petitioner



## **SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATE**

I, Julie D. Lathia, am a member in good  
(Name of Sponsor)  
standing of the Bar of the United States District Court for the Middle District of  
Pennsylvania, having been admitted to practice on (month) May (day) 16,  
(year) 2014. I have known the above petitioner for 18 years  
(length of time)

To my knowledge, the petitioner's moral character is as follows:

Mr. Benecke has high moral character and his practice of law is consistent with the  
ethical obligations by which lawyers are bound.

To my knowledge, the petitioner's educational background and experience are as follows:

Mr. Benecke graduated from Temple Beasley School of Law in 2008 and has since that  
time been in constant practice in state and federal courts in Pennsylvania.

I sponsor and recommend Joel E. Benecke  
(Name of Petitioner)

for admission as a qualified attorney to practice before this court.



(Signature of Sponsor)

Office address:

535 N Church St., Suite 317

West Chester, PA 19380

Telephone:

717-940-4881

Attorney Bar I.D. No.

PA - 208407